(c) the details of the revised order of GEAC?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Gujarat State Biotechnology Coordination Committee (SBCC) requested the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to reconsider its order of 18.10.01, in view of the practical difficulties in implementing the order.

(c) The GEAC in its meeting held on 31.10.2001, considered the request of SBCC and directed the SBCC to:

- procure the cotton bolls of Navbharat 151 crop from the farmers at the appropriate support price;
- separate the lint and seed;
- destroy the seed and store the lint in safe custody till further orders from GEAC;
- destruction of crop residue by uprooting and burning and sanitation of fields.

Death of Peacocks

†951. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Peacocks have been found dead in various parts of the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of such Peacocks alongwith the locations where such Peacocks have been found and whether Government have conducted any enquiry with regard to their death; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Cases of death of peafowls that have come to the notice of the Government are given in the enclosed statement. The postmortem reports indicate that the

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

deaths have occurred due to consumption of insecticide treated seeds and severe heat stroke.

Statement

Details regarding the number of peafowls found dead during 2001 and the location of their death

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of peafowls found dead	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	7	Pochanpur Village
2.	Haryana	1	Bahadurgarh, Distt. Jhajjar
3.	Haryana	2	Sadalpur, Distt. Hissar
4.	Madhya Pradesh	4	Bhopal
5.	Madhya Pradesh	5	Sihor
6.	Madhya Pradesh	4	Raisen
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Gwalior
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Murena
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Hoshangabad
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Jabalpur
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Mandla
12.	Maharashtra	4	Melghat Tiger Reserve
13.	Maharashtra	1	Yavatmal
14.	Maharashtra	1	Aurangabad
15.	Maharashtra	1	Amravati
16.	Rajasthan	10	Kundan, Distt. Sikar
17.	Rajasthan	1	Dantda, Distt. Sikar
18.	Rajasthan	5	Virania, Distt. Sikar
19.	Rajasthan	4	Chachivada Chota, Distt. Sikar
20.	Rajasthan	11	Chachivada Bada, Distt. Sikar
21.	Rajasthan	20	Charan Ka Bas, Distt. Sikar
22.	Rajasthan	8	Rajsamand (Nadoli)
23.	Rajasthan	4	Shahpura, Sikar Distt.
24.	Rajasthan	13	Udaipur,
25.	Rajasthan	25	Heerapura, Fagi, Railway Station, (Jaipur)

1	2	3	4
26.	Rajasthan	5	Bhilwara
27.	Rajasthan	2	Jhunjhunu
28.	Rajasthan	1	Chittor
29.	Rajasthan	5	Dhahar ka bas in Sikar Distt.

Destruction of forests by mining in Assam

952. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of destruction of forests and hills on account of open cast mining operations in the Patkai Range of Assam by the North East Coal Field Ltd. of CIL;

(b) if so, the details of clause-wise protective measures provided in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulatory) Act, 1957 and those taken;

(c) the extend of damage caused to forests and natural topography, vegetation and wild life vegetation, drinking water and cultivable land; and

(d) the total hectares of land utilised for open cast mining operations since inception and the land subsequently reclaimed and made fit for vegetation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. De-coaled areas are backfilled with overburden, terraced and compacted. Top soil over is spread to make the area fit for vegetation. Retaining walls and toe-walls are constructed for protection against slope failure. Gullies are plugged. Mine water discharge is treated before its final disposal. Mining machinery is properly maintained. Water is sprayed on haul roads to minimise fugititve dust emissions.

Munchi abandoned mine measuring 35 ha. has been reclaimed and converted into a recreation ground with a lake. Pisiculture has been promoted. Plantation of ornamental plant species has been carried out.

(c) Natural topography and vegetation has been damaged due to